

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 3, 2004, having a shortened statutory period set to expire November 3, 2004. Claims 1-34 are pending. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 6, 9, 14 and 28; and canceled claims 26-27. No new matter has been entered by these amendments.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and Objections to the Specification

On pages 2-3 of the present Office Action, Claims 1-34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement and objecting to the specification under 35 U.S.C. §132. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position that Applicants specification failed to reasonably convey the aspect of Applicant's invention added to Claims 1, 26 and 28 in Amendment B. As Applicant explained in detail on pages 12-13 of Amendment B filed on February 17, 2004, the specification clearly describes each of the elements added to the specification in Amendment B. Each piece of information was explicitly taught within the understanding of someone skilled in the art at various places within the specification and were merely consolidated by Applicant's proposed amendments to provide a more readable disclosure. Such information was nonetheless clearly present in the originally filed specification and was worded sufficiently for someone skilled in the art to clearly understand and reasonably reduce the invention to practice. Applicant's position that this is the case is buttressed by Applicant's declaration submitted under §1.132 accompanying Amendment B and attesting to the sufficiency of the disclosure of the specification as originally filed.

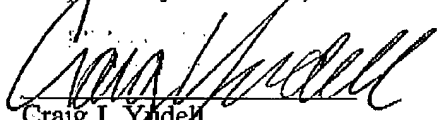
Notwithstanding Applicant's traversal to the Examiner's rejection of the claims under §112 and objection to the specification, Applicant has nonetheless amended the specification and claims to eliminate the amendments made in Amendment B. Consequently, Applicant believes that the rejection of Claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph has been overcome by Applicant's amendment. Further, Applicant believes that the amendments to the specification place the specification back to its state as originally filed, and as such, overcome the Examiner's objection to the specification under 35 U.S.C. §132.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-5, 8, 18-30, 32 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(A) as being unpatentable over Overton in view of Lehman and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 5,784,413). That rejection is respectfully traversed and reconsideration of the claims is requested.

Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 in the present application to incorporate the limitation of dependent Claim 7. Further, Applicant has amended Claim 6 in the present application to incorporate the limitations of independent Claim 1 and dependent Claim 5 in the present application. Further, Applicant has canceled Claims 26 and 27 in the present application. Still further, Applicant has amended independent Claim 28 in the present application to incorporate the limitation of dependent Claim 31. Applicant believes that such amendments overcome the rejection under §103, and Applicant further believes that such amendments now place the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


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